GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
BOMB BLAST NEAR INDIAN EMBASSY IN KABUL
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bomb blast has taken place near the Indian Embassy in Afghanistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of casualties and loss of property;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government of Afghanistan thereto;

(e) the details of the compensation paid/being paid and other assistance to the victims and their families;

(f) whether the Government of India has also conducted their own investigation into the said incident;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Indian Government to ensure safety and security of the Indians working in Afghanistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (h) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A)-(H) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION 66 REGARDING 'BOMB BLAST NEAR INDIAN EMBASSY IN KABUL' FOR ANSWER ON 22.10.2008

On 7th July 2008, at 0831 local time, a vehicle borne improvised explosive device was exploded by a suicide bomber near the entrance gate of the Indian Embassy in Kabul. The attack resulted in the tragic deaths of Shri V.V. Rao, Counsellor, Brig. R.D. Mehta, Defence AttachÃ© in the Embassy and their Afghan driver Mr. Neamatullah who were in an Embassy vehicle. Constable Ajay Singh Pathania (ITBP), Constable Roop Singh (ITBP) and 55 Afghan nationals (including 11 security personnel and 17 schoolchildren) were also killed. More than 150 persons received injuries. A large number of vehicles, both inside and outside the Chancery premises, were badly damaged. The Chancery building was also badly damaged. The attack on our Embassy is viewed with grave concern by Government as a dastardly terrorist attack perpetuated by the enemies of peace in Afghanistan and our region. The response of the Government of Afghanistan has been very positive in terms of investigating the attack and increasing security for our personnel. The Government of India have provided compensation and assistance. The investigation into the attack and to identify all its perpetrators is continuing. The security of the Embassy, Consulates and its personnel has been augmented after the attack. The Afghan Government has been fully sensitised on providing adequate protection to Indian project workers and personnel in different parts of Afghanistan.